

EWSHOT PARISH COUNCIL

**THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF EWSHOT PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON MONDAY 8 FEBRUARY 2021 AT 7 PM
MEETING HELD VITUALLY DUE TO THE CONTINUING GUIDANCE ON SOCIAL DISTANCING TO
HELP STOP THE SPREAD OF COVID-19**

Present: Cllr G Bredin (Chairman), Cllr B Cranstone, Cllr E Jennings, Cllr A Taylor and Cllr T Wells.
In Attendance: Alison Ball (Clerk) and Cllr J Bennison (Hampshire County Council).
12 members of the public present.

21/22	Apologies for Absence
	Cllr T Clarke (Hart District Council)

20/23	Approval of the Minutes of the meeting of Ewshot Parish Council held on 11 January 2021
	RESOLVED: To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 11 January 2021.

20/24	Matters arising from the Minutes
	None.

20/25	Announcements from Chairman, Clerk and Members' Questions
	None.

20/26	District and County Council Report
	<p>Hampshire County Council (HCC):- Councillor Bennison gave the following details:</p> <p>a) Open Community Fibre Project: it was requested that this be added as an agenda item for future meetings so that regular updates could be provided. A meeting had been scheduled with a representative from Openreach for 24 February and it was anticipated that there would be a discussion about the area that this would cover. Once contracts were signed it would take about a year for the work to be done.</p> <p>b) Council Tax: a decision on the level of Council Tax for 2021/22 was due to be made by Full Council at HCC at the end of the month and the proposal was for there to be an increase of 4.99%; 2.99% was ring-fenced for adult social services with the remaining 2% for everything else. This equated to approximately £64 for a Band D property – about £1.21 a week. This was just for HCC and there would also rises for Hart District Council, Fire Service and the Police and Crime Commissioner.</p>

The Chairman confirmed that the Parish Council was not increasing its portion of the Council Tax for 2021/22.

c) Tracing Service: HCC had started a tracing service for Covid. If the national framework did not work and people could not be traced this local service would step in.

d) Vaccination Centres: there was a vaccination centre set up in the memorial hall in Church Crookham and it was hoped that another centre at the Harlington would be operational shortly. There would be a symptomatic testing site set up in the Council Offices in Fleet for people needing a test.

e) Gritting and Snow Clearing of Roads: the centre of Ewshot was not on a priority route for gritting but Beacon Hill and the A287 were. People were advised to be very careful travelling this week as very cold temperatures were forecast. The snow plough did come out two weeks ago when there was snow in the Village.

f) Doras Green: Work was due to start here on 1 February to install new signage but it was understood that this had not started yet. This was new signage designed to slow down vehicles at the Heath Lane and Doras Green Lane crossroads which had seen lots of accidents. Cllr Bennison would like to see a reduction in the speed limit in this area but had been unable to achieve this. However there had been more accidents recently so this had been raised again with the Accident Mitigation Team and a request made that this be looked at again.

g) Development at Watery Lane and new roundabout at the junction of Redfields Lane and the A287: this was the development of 350 houses in Church Crookham Parish and the associated roundabout which would be constructed in the parish of Ewshot. Recently there had been notification from HDC to say that Redfields Lane would be closed from 15 February for up to six weeks to allow for underground cable works. The road was currently under traffic light control to allow gas works to take place. The closure may result in additional traffic along Ewshot Lane and Dares Lane. A sign saying 'unsuitable for diverted traffic' was proposed for Ewshot Lane and Cllr Bennison had requested an additional one for Dares Lane. A briefing paper had been shared with councillors with details of the timeframe for the construction of the new roundabout. These timeframes were elastic and would depend on many variables. There was a very narrow window for the roundabout to be put in and construction would take a year partly because the A287 would need to be kept open for the duration of the works. Redlands Lane would have to be shut at some point for the new roundabout. It was hoped that during the closure coming up this month the roundabout contractors would get their site in off Redlands Lane in the fields.

h) Elections: it was thought that elections would be going ahead on 6 May. In Ewshot there would be elections for parish members, district members, county members and the Police and Crime Commissioner. In Crookham Village they will also have a referendum for their Village Plan. There would not be a general election but almost everyone in the country would be voting for something.

20/27	Declaration of Interests and Requests for Dispensations
	None.
20/28	Public Participation
	None.
20/29	Planning
	<p>(a) 20/03119/HOU Pine Cottage, Bridle Path Erection of a part single, part two storey rear extension.</p> <p>RESOLVED: No objection. Proposed by Cllr Bredin, seconded by Cllr Taylor and agreed unanimously.</p> <p>(b) 21/00081/HOU Ewshot Cottage, Doras Green Lane Erection of a single storey infill extension.</p> <p>RESOLVED: No objection. Proposed by Cllr Cranstone, seconded by Cllr Jennings and agreed unanimously.</p> <p>(c) 21/000111/FUL Ewshot Cottage, Doras Green Lane Creation of a new vehicular access with gates and fencing and shingle driveway.</p> <p>RESOLVED: To object on the grounds that this will create a second access and the Parish Council would only accept this if the original access was being closed. This is a busy, dangerous road and if re-siting of the access is needed to improve visibility and therefore safety this would be accepted by the Parish Council but this should be instead of the original access not in addition to. Proposed by Cllr Wells, seconded by Cllr Cranstone and agreed unanimously.</p>
21/30	Handyman Role
	<p>It was suggested that consideration be given to employing a handyman to carry out small, low cost jobs such as putting up a sign, minor repairs in the play area and putting in a fence post. Currently getting these jobs done involved trying to obtain three quotes which was often difficult and time consuming to achieve compared to the value of the job. Members were generally supportive of the idea.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That Cllrs Wells and Taylor, supported by the Clerk form a working group to look into the options and the way forward with this.</p>

21/31	Highways
	<p data-bbox="334 264 1409 331">Doras Green: this had been dealt with under item 5 within the report by Cllr Bennison.</p> <p data-bbox="334 380 1409 642">Ewshot Gardens: an email had been received from a resident at Ewshot Gardens asking for help with the maintenance of the public areas on the estate owned by Vivid Homes. Members had agreed by email that as a grant had recently been awarded to this group for another maintenance project the Parish Council would not give another grant at this time. The Clerk had driven around the estate and felt the area looked very neat and tidy and well maintained which may have been done by the residents rather than Vivid Homes.</p> <p data-bbox="334 690 1409 800">Marlborough Hill Estate and Beacon Hill Parking: the Chairman introduced this item advising that there had been various communications over the last few weeks between residents and the parish council on this issue.</p> <p data-bbox="334 848 1409 1184">A resident of the Bridle Path spoke advising that two properties used the Bridle Path for access. Parking along Beacon Hill was making it dangerous to exit from the Bridle Path onto Beacon Hill. The increase in recent months in the number of vehicles parked along both sides of Beacon Hill and either side of the entrance to the Bridle Path restricted visibility when pulling out, which was causing a danger to life. This was affecting the residents as well as delivery drivers and the postman. It was requested that thought be given to how drivers could be reminded not to park on the pavement to the right of the top of the Bridle Path and to secure a line of sight to the left of the Bridle Path.</p> <p data-bbox="334 1232 1409 1299">The Chairman confirmed that the Parish Council had installed a no parking sign at the top of the Bridle Path to keep the access clear.</p> <p data-bbox="334 1348 1409 1499">Prior to the meeting HDC had confirmed that the issues in this area had been reported to them in 2020 and proposals had been added to the forward programme. It was anticipated that these works would be carried out in the 2021/22 financial year. HDC had not provided details of what the works would include.</p> <p data-bbox="334 1547 1409 1698">Cllr Bennison advised that once HDC had drafted proposals for the new restrictions he would be consulted on the content and he would expect the proposal to look at the whole area including the access to the Bridle Path. He suggested that hatched lines may help to stop parking over the entrance way.</p> <p data-bbox="334 1747 1409 1856">It was agreed that the Parish Council should highlight the issues around the Bridle Path to HDC and request that this be considered when drawing up proposals for the area.</p>

A member of the public speaking on behalf of residents of Malborough Hill Estate advised that residents had two main concerns: the first related to the significant increase in parking on both sides of Beacon Hill making ingress and egress to Badger Way very difficult due to blocked sight lines. The second related to the increase in parking on the estate, primarily parking on the pavements restricting or preventing safe access for pedestrians, pushchairs and wheelchairs. He was aware that there were three separate agencies that needed to be involved: HCC, the Army and the Police. It was requested that the Parish Council make contact with all three to try to reach a conclusion. Residents would also like to see parking restrictions introduced around the junction of Badger Way and Beacon Hill.

It was advised that the Parish Council had already been in contact with Hampshire Highways and Engineers at HDC. The former had advised that this was an issue that needed to be dealt with HDC. The latter had confirmed that they were aware of the issues and a scheme would be brought forward in 2021/22. Contact had also been made with Parking Enforcement at HDC who had confirmed that they did not have the legal powers to carry out any enforcement.

The Chairman reported that he was aware that the local MP had been advised of the issues and he had contacted the joint chief executive at HDC, the Chief Inspector and the Director of Economy, Transport and Environment at HCC. It was hoped that the Parish Council would receive copies of any responses. The Chairman confirmed that the Parish Council had no powers to take any action relating to the highway and action needed to be taken by HCC and/or HDC.

Cllr Bennison advised that there were a number of parties involved. HCC was the highways authority but there was an agency agreement in place that meant that this needed to be addressed by HDC. The land being accessed by the people parking was owned by Defence Estates and Cllr Bennison expressed concerns about the likelihood of a response from them on this matter.

Cllr Bennison was aware that there were over 20 small works being proposed by HDC for the coming year, including this project, and he was unaware whether the funding would be available for all of these proposals. Any prohibition or restriction of parking would involve the implementation of a Traffic Regulation Order. This would be quite a slow process and would involve public consultation. It was anticipated that some residents might object to the proposals. He felt that the most important thing would be to focus on the safety aspect and secure sight lines. He was aware that there had been some discussion in Parliament about extending the ban on pavement parking beyond London but there had no progress on this during the last year. This would not be a straightforward piece of legislation and he felt it was unlikely that Central Government would implement a nationwide ban on pavement parking as this would not be practicable in certain areas. It was likely that this would be delegated to county councils to implement local policies which could take years. Cllr Bennison was

	<p>also aware that there had been some discussion about creating a clearway which would ban all stopping on the highway. He was not sure whether this would apply to vehicles parked off the highway on the army owned verge. Cllr Bennison suggested that the Parish Council consider putting no pavement parking signs alongside the pavement at Beacon Hill to try to dissuade people from doing this.</p> <p>The member of the public confirmed that the parking issues had been exacerbated by coronavirus as it had been significantly worse in the last 12 months. It was likely that the problem had been caused by the closure of the car parks by the army as these were very busy when they were in use. He confirmed that there were now hardly any car parks for accessing the army land. He conceded that it was unlikely the army would be proactive on this matter. He felt that it must be a highways issue and he understood that this had been delegated to HDC but HDC only seemed to be interested in car parks.</p> <p>The Chairman confirmed that the Parish Council shared the concerns of the residents and agreed that there was dangerous parking taking place. He would wait for the responses to the local MP to see if this prompted any action. He thanked everyone for their attendance at the meeting and reassured members of the public that the Parish Council would continue to push for answers to this.</p> <p>(NOTE: Following this item the majority of the members of the public left the meeting.)</p>
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21/32	Quotes for Installation of the Bins
	Quotes had not yet been sought and this would be considered at a future meeting.

21/33	Almshouse Update
	The Chairman reported that a meeting was due to be held but this had been cancelled. There was lots of work going on at Cotterell Court behind the scenes and they were being supported by various community groups. An update would be given once a meeting could be held.

	FINANCE
21/34	Banking Arrangements
	It was advised that Cllr Wells had been authorising payments with the Chairman. No one else had been able to set this up. The Chairman encouraged everyone to try to get set up for internet banking.

21/35	Payments																
	The following payments were approved:																
	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th style="text-align: right;">£</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>February Payroll</td> <td style="text-align: right;">531.68</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Lenthall Landscapes – Bin emptying (January)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">66.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Gary Bredin – Reimbursement for getting keys cut</td> <td style="text-align: right;">24.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>D M Payroll Services – Oct to March</td> <td style="text-align: right;">66.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Jewson – no parking sign</td> <td style="text-align: right;">88.64</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Gary Bredin – reimbursement for ink</td> <td style="text-align: right;">52.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Premier Grounds & Garden Maintenance – Green waste from Lengthsman work</td> <td style="text-align: right;">72.00</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		£	February Payroll	531.68	Lenthall Landscapes – Bin emptying (January)	66.00	Gary Bredin – Reimbursement for getting keys cut	24.00	D M Payroll Services – Oct to March	66.00	Jewson – no parking sign	88.64	Gary Bredin – reimbursement for ink	52.00	Premier Grounds & Garden Maintenance – Green waste from Lengthsman work	72.00
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21/36	Correspondence
	The Clerk advised that there was no correspondence that had been received in addition to that already forwarded on and none that needed addressing that had not appeared elsewhere on the agenda.

21/37	Any other business
	<p>The Chairman advised that there had been some anti-social behaviour in the car park at the Village Hall. Concerns about this had been raised with the Community Safety Officer at HDC and a response was awaited. It was hoped that she would arrange for the Police to do some random checks. It was suggested that thought be given to closing and locking the gate to the car park over night.</p> <p>Cllr Taylor requested that more dog poop bags be ordered.</p>

The meeting ended at 8.22 pm

Signed.....

Dated